

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A strapping machine for positioning a strap material around an associated load, tensioning the strap material and sealing the strap material to itself around the load, the strapping machine comprising:
 - a frame;
 - a strapping head mounted to the frame, the strapping head including at least a pair of wheels for feeding strap material and for retracting strap material, the strapping head configured to seal a first course of strap material onto an overlying second course of strap material;
 - a strap chute mounted to the frame and configured for receiving the strap material from the strapping head and positioning the strap material around the load, the strap chute configured to release the strap therefrom as the strap material is pulled to the load, the strap chute having an inner wall and a transverse wall defining a strap track from which the strap material is released, the inner wall being moveable away from the transverse wall for releasing the strap, the chute including at least one torsion element operably connected to the inner wall to urge the inner wall from the transverse wall to form a gap between the inner wall and the transverse wall.
2. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 1 wherein the strap chute includes an outer wall in opposing relation to the inner wall and wherein the strap track is defined between the inner and outer walls.
3. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 1 wherein the inner wall is mounted to a corner support for movement of the inner wall away from the transverse wall.
4. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 3 including at least two tabs extending from the torsion element, wherein the torsion element is rotated to bring the tabs into contact with the inner wall to move the inner wall away from the transverse wall.
5. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 4 wherein the torsion element extends along a vertical portion of the strap chute and including a second

torsion element extending along a horizontal portion of the strap chute adjacent the vertical portion, the torsion elements being operably connected to one another such that rotation of the vertical torsion element rotates the horizontal torsion element.

6. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 5 including a pin extending radially from an end of the vertical torsion element and a pin extending radially from an end of the horizontal torsion element, wherein upon rotation of the vertical torsion element, the pin extending from the vertical torsion element contacts and rotates the pin in the horizontal torsion element.

7. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 5 wherein the inner wall and corner support are biasedly mounted to the strap chute to urge the inner wall toward the transverse wall.

8. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 7 including springs for biasedly mounting the inner wall and corner support.

9. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 1 including a stationary stripper element extending through the inner wall, wherein when the inner wall is moved away from the transverse wall, contact of the strap material with the stripper element urges the strap material into the gap between the inner wall and transverse wall to release the strap material from the strap track.

10. The strapping machine in accordance with claim 2 including a stationary stripper element extending through the inner wall, wherein when the inner wall is moved away from the transverse wall, contact of the strap material with the stripper element urges the strap material into the gap between the inner wall and transverse wall to release the strap material from the strap track.